

Scott Gomez of the Stanley Cup champion New Jersey Devils. Scott was born and raised in Anchorage, Alaska and is only the eighteenth Alaskan to play in the National Hockey League and the first to make such a huge impact in his first year.

This past Thursday, Scott was awarded the Calder Trophy for best rookie performance in the 1999-2000 season. He led all rookies with 19 goals and 51 assists in 82 regular season games. During the playoffs, he earned 10 points. Past winners of the Calder include Bobby Orr and Ray Bourque.

Scott Gomez is an amazing young man. At the age of only 20, he has accomplished his lifelong dream of playing in the National Hockey League and winning the Stanley Cup, all in one year. He was a rising star in Anchorage where he began playing as a child. From very early on, it was evident that he would be a big star in the NHL. He was twice named Player of the Year by the Anchorage Daily News/State Coaches. In his junior year of high school, he led the Alaska All-Stars team, ages 16-17, to the USA Hockey Tier I national championship. After graduating from East High School in Anchorage, Scott played for Team USA in the World Junior Championship. In addition to this, he is the first Latino to play in the NHL. His father, Carlos, is Mexican and his mother, Dalia, is Colombian.

Mr. President, Scott Gomez is a wonderful example of a young, talented Alaskan who, I am sure, will continue to impress us all in the years to come.●

50TH ANNIVERSARY REUNION OF "COMPANY K"

● Mr. DODD. Mr. President, I rise today to pay tribute to the men of the National Guard's 169th Infantry Regiment of the 43rd Division, or Company K, as they were called, who answered the call to serve their country 50 years ago in securing peace and democracy in Germany during the Korean War. The men of Company K were an elite group of civilian soldiers hailing from Middlesex County in my home state of Connecticut.

When Communist-led North Korea invaded South Korea on June 25, 1950, President Truman decided to strengthen United States forces by calling up the National Guard. Worried that the Korean attack was only a diversion for a planned Soviet attack on Berlin, the Truman administration deployed troops in Germany to thwart any plans for aggression. In order to make this possible, Truman relied heavily on support from the National Guard.

Company K, headquartered in Middletown, Connecticut, became part of this defense effort and reported for roll call on September 5, 1950, officially becoming part of the United States Army. While training at the A.P. Hill

Military Reservation in Virginia, Company K received word from Major General Kenneth F. Cramer that they were to report for duty in Germany. It was July 10, 1951, 12:10 p.m.

The Major General recalled the history of the 43rd, noting that never before had it been assigned such a task. It was to be the first time in history that a National Guard division went to Europe in peace time. Major General Cramer said to his troops:

We are now participating in a determined effort by western civilization to maintain its freedoms and to preserve the peace through the cooperative effort under the Atlantic Pact. . . . As we move into Europe, the eyes of that continent will be upon us. All these people will judge the America of today by us. By our conduct, by our appearance, by our soldierly qualities, we must make certain that their judgments are most favorable to our own country, whose ambassadors we shall be.

And great representatives of America they were. On January 4, 1952, the Hartford Courant wrote that the 43rd Division had become an elite force of respectable and dutiful soldiers. They further praised them for their consideration towards the people of Germany, among whom they lived and interacted on a daily basis.

Company K stayed in Germany for more than two and a half years. Through their efforts there in building defense systems, organizing the border defenses, and strengthening the NATO forces, they successfully helped to prevent any Soviet attacks.

The soldiers of the Company put the preservation of freedom and democratic society ahead of themselves. They proved that their loyalty to our society's ideals and their desire for peace was their first priority. As such, our nation could not have asked for finer ambassadors in Europe.

On June 25, 2000, the members of Company K will be celebrating their 50th Anniversary Reunion gathering. I am grateful to them for their actions 50 years ago and on behalf of the people of Connecticut, and the nation as a whole, I wish to extend a heartfelt thank you to the men of Company K. I hope that their reunion is a success and I wish them well in the future.●

A TRIBUTE TO DR. DENISE DAVIS-COTTON

● Mr. ABRAHAM. Mr. President, I rise today to recognize Dr. Denise Davis-Cotton, who will be honored this morning during the Millennium Commencement Ceremony at Detroit Symphony Orchestra Hall. Dr. Davis-Cotton is being honored for her many contributions to the Detroit Public School System. In particular, she will be honored for her role as the founding principal of the Detroit High School for the Fine and Performing Arts, and for the work she has done in this capacity.

In founding the Detroit High School for the Fine and Performing Arts,

which opened its doors to students in the fall of 1992, Dr. Davis-Cotton established a unique center for learning: a small inner city public school dedicated primarily to the study of the arts. She designed the school curriculum, developed its program components, and wrote the philosophy and mission statement for the school, all of which are based upon a strong commitment to the study of the arts.

After an initial application process, students are asked to audition in one of the following areas: instrumental music, vocal music, speech and theater, dance or visual arts. Only after this audition are students accepted to the school. Upon acceptance, students partake in a rigorous college preparatory curriculum, along with an intensive study in their selected art field.

The results of this demanding program have been resoundingly successful. 100 percent of the first graduating class received acceptance to college; the school holds a 97 percent student retention rate; a 95 percent student attendance rate; and the Class of 2000 had an overall grade point average of 3.08. Mr. President, the 107 students who comprised the Class of 1998 were awarded seven and a half million dollars in scholarships and grants for higher education. The school has had national champions in Academic Games and the Tri-Math-A-Lon, and its Forensics Team has won the Michigan State Championship four consecutive years.

Another important aspect of the Detroit High School for the Fine and Performing Arts is the unique relationship the school has formed with the Detroit Symphony Orchestra. Through this partnership, students have been given the opportunity to work with jazz greats Brandford Marsalis and Frank Foster; award winning composer Alvin Singleton; Detroit Symphony Orchestra Music Director Neeme Jarvi; and Detroit Symphony Orchestra Assistant Conductor Ya-Hui-Wang. In addition to instrumental students studying privately with members of the Detroit Symphony Orchestra, an annual joint concert is presented featuring Detroit High School for the Fine and Performing Arts and Detroit Symphony Orchestra.

This partnership was taken to an even higher level in 1996. With financial assistance from the Detroit Medical Center, an \$80 million dollar project was undertaken, to be called Orchestra Place. Orchestra Place, when completed, will be an office, retail, education and arts complex centered around the historic home of the Detroit Symphony, Orchestra Hall. It will also include the new home of the Detroit High School for the Fine and Performing Arts. It is expected to be an important regional performing arts complex, which will offer professional and student performances in the world class Orchestra Hall.